

First progress report on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Austria



Imprint

Media owner and publisher:

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz, BMSGPK)

Stubenring 1, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

sozialministerium.at

Place of publication and production: Vienna

Coordination: Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Dept. V/B/4

Cover picture: © iStockphoto / kali9

Layout: SHW – Stephan Hiegetsberger Werbegrafik-Design GmbH, A-1170 Vienna

Vienna, December 2024

All rights reserved:

Any commercial utilisation (including extracts) is not permitted without the prior written consent of the media owner. This applies in particular to any kind of duplication, translation, microfilming, reproduction on television and/or radio, as well as distribution and storage in electronic media such as the Internet or CD-ROM.

For citations (in research papers), the following source must be indicated: Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz, BMSGPK) (ed.); title of the respective publication, year of publication.

Ordering information: This publication and others can be ordered free of charge via the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs' brochure service at www.sozialministerium.at/broschuerenservice or by telephone +43 (0)1 711 00-86 25 25.

Table of contents

1 Context of the first progress report.....	2
2 Child poverty and the wellbeing of children in Austria.....	4
3 Target groups.....	9
4 Key Element ‘Early Childhood Education and Care’.....	12
5 Key element ‘Inclusive education and school-based activities’.....	15
6 Key element ‘A healthy meal each school day’.....	18
7 Key element ‘Health care’.....	20
8 Key element ‘Healthy nutrition’.....	25
9 Key element ‘Adequate housing’.....	27
10 Special topic ‘Family and youth’.....	29
11 Special topic ‘Inclusion of children and youth with disabilities’.....	31
12 Monitoring.....	34
Annex 1 – Target tables.....	35
Annex 2 – Monitoring tables.....	43

1 Context of the first progress report

This first progress report on Austria's implementation of the European Child Guarantee ('the Child Guarantee') was drawn up with the close collaboration of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK), the Family and Youth section of the Federal Chancellery (BKA) and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), under the guidance of the BMSGPK. Care was taken during the preparation of the report to reflect, as far as possible, the recommendations and the feedback from the European Commission on the National Action Plan.

The structure of the report follows that of the National Action Plan. The comments on the recent progress made between January and November 2024 on the six key elements of the Child Guarantee and the chapters dealing specifically with family policy and inclusion policy are central components. The report also contains an update on the situation of children who have fled to Austria from Ukraine, with a comprehensive update and further improvement of the data monitoring.

In addition to contributions from the federal ministries listed above, consultations and exchanges took place with various stakeholders in compiling the progress report, and the results of these were also included in the report. For example, based on a decision on the Child Guarantee by the *Landessozialreferent:innen* (kind of Ministers for Social Affairs at the provincial level), the offices of the nine provincial governments were more closely involved. All the provinces contributed excellent projects to the chapters on the core objectives, which exemplify the implementation of the Child Guarantee at regional level.

A project group on the National Action Plan to implement the Child Guarantee, focusing on the aspects of the National Action Plan, which concern child rights, was also set up under the auspices of the Children's Rights Board. The Children's Rights Board includes stakeholders from interest groups, civil society and research and advises the Federal Government on implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project group has so far met twice.

Since the adoption of the National Action Plan, efforts have also been made to further expand the objectives and concerns of the Child Guarantee. In autumn 2024, for example, the BMSGPK's SDG 'breakfast dialogue' included an exchange with important stakeholders from the action areas of child poverty, development cooperation and sustainability, in which the aim of the Child Guarantee in the context of meeting the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) was addressed.

The BMSGPK is also engaged in spreading the ideas of the Child Guarantee to EU candidate countries in the context of its bilateral cooperation with countries in Eastern

and South-Eastern Europe, as it can serve as a potential strategy for combating child poverty in the context of the transition to EU social standards.

At global level, the Child Guarantee is making a significant contribution to achieving the UN's SDGs in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Austria is committed to mainstreaming the development goals in all policy areas. Reference will be made in this progress report to the development goals, which correspond to the key elements of the Child Guarantee.

2 Child poverty and the wellbeing of children in Austria

Combating child poverty and promoting children's wellbeing was also a core concern of the Austrian Government in 2024, in line with the objectives set out in the Government programme.

Combating child poverty as early as possible in childhood and promoting the wellbeing of all children in the country is not only necessary for ethical reasons; it also has an economic impact. A [Study](#) on Austria presented by the OECD in autumn 2023 stated, by way of introduction, that social disadvantage in childhood had a direct impact on the employment situation and state of health in adulthood. This can take the form of a greater likelihood of unemployment and poor health as well as low income. The overall cost to society which results was calculated by the OECD as being EUR 17.2 billion a year, which represents 3.6% of Austria's gross domestic product (GDP). However, the study also concluded that children in the OECD area suffered relatively little material deprivation and that they were less disadvantaged in terms of social and leisure activities in recent years. The Federal Government is also committed to endeavouring to further reduce child poverty, in spite of external factors such as pandemics, inflation and the climate crisis. A crucial factor in terms of disadvantage in education is the development of early childhood, education and care – proposed as a key measure by the OECD – which has recently been extensively promoted in Austria.

In the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights National Action Plan, Austria has set itself the target of reducing the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 102 000 by 2030. Although the increase in the number of children affected to 376 000 as against the initial 2019 figure of 312 000 represents a significant deviation from the target, it has proved possible to prevent the social decline of many households with children. While quarterly indicators of material and social deprivation among under-18-year-olds revealed a decline until mid-2023, there has been a steady improvement since then. Whereas 566 000 children (36%) could not afford unexpected expenses in the second quarter of 2023, this figure had decreased to 509 000 (32%) by the second quarter of 2024. A [Study by the Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH](#) published in 2023 found that the rise in prices recorded since 2021 had largely been cushioned by the success of structural developments in the Austrian transfer system for families.

Despite a significant fall in inflation, prices are still rising, particularly for people in the low and middle income brackets, and this remains a major burden. It also has a corresponding impact on children at risk of poverty or exclusion. The Federal Government has set out comprehensive measures to cushion inflation in its relief packages. These represent over EUR 49 billion of support for the years 2022 to 2026 and are designed to benefit in particular children who are impacted.

Together with the introduction of a valorisation of social benefits, by means of which family benefits¹ in particular have been automatically adjusted to inflation since 2023, the child supplement introduced in 2023 provides targeted relief for socio-economically disadvantaged families in the amount of EUR 60 per month per child for single earners or working single parents with low incomes as well as for recipients of unemployment benefit, emergency assistance, social assistance or equalisation supplement. This subsidy, previously granted for a limited period, will be introduced on a permanent basis from 2025 as a tax credit for single parents and single earners.

Under the 'Living and Housing Cost Compensation Act' (*Lebenshaltungs- und Wohnkosten-Ausgleichs-Gesetz – LWA-G*), the BMSGPK is making available a total of EUR 8 million to implement projects for non-profit, free food distribution to vulnerable households. The social participation of children is being improved through the free distribution of snacks in schools with a high proportion of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion and the provision of food packages to families at risk of poverty in non-school learning facilities. In addition, the BMSGPK spent over EUR 5 million in 2023 on projects to increase the social participation of children and young people.

Wirksam Werden (Creating an Impact) is a development programme for social organisations working on innovative solutions to poverty among children and young people and implementing them as prototypes. The programme was commissioned to scale up projects with proven effectiveness in combating child poverty and poverty in general and will run until summer 2026. The projects aim to ensure, for example, that children and young people affected by poverty have free access to leisure activities or can improve their social competences through special sports activities. A total of 22 projects have been commissioned, at a cost of some EUR 16 million.

Since 2022 the BMSGPK has also supported around 50 000 apprentices and schoolchildren from households receiving social assistance with starting school, through the *Schulstartklar!* and *Schulstartplus!* initiatives. Through *Schulstartklar!*, vouchers are issued for school materials throughout Austria under the Austrian ESF+ 2021–2027 programme to combat material deprivation. *Schulstartplus!* is providing the same schoolchildren with a donation of EUR 150 from 2024 to 2026 to help cover the costs associated with attending school and to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and hygiene items.

In addition, the provinces have taken a series of measures to help combat child poverty. For example, Burgenland's solidarity fund helps children from socio-economically disadvantaged families to take part in holiday activities. Carinthia has introduced the

¹ e.g., the family allowance, child tax credit and child supplement for large families, childcare allowance and 'family time supplement', or the study allowance (school or university).

'Carinthia social guide' (*Kärntner Soziallotsen*), which provides low-level access to social support services in the fields, for example, of health and housing.

In addition, interest in 'prevention chains' has been growing at provincial level in recent years. These pursue a similar overall strategy at municipal level to 'Early Childhood Interventions' (*Frühe Hilfen*) and coordinate and make accessible to children the various enabling and support services to prevent different social risk situations. Unlike *Frühe Hilfen*, the intention is for the prevention chains to operate until the onset of adulthood, thus constituting a useful complement to *Frühe Hilfen*. In Styria, for example, there is a flagship initiative on establishing and expanding prevention chains at municipal and microregional level, which envisages a comprehensive expansion of provision throughout the educational careers of children and young people. The long-term approach to support is based on the idea of enabling children to develop their skills, despite the different circumstances into which they are born and contrasting social environments.

The Federal Government continues to place considerable emphasis on single-parent children, who are often affected by poverty or social exclusion. As a result, in 2023 and 2024, the BMSGPK promoted large-scale projects of several years' duration to support single parents and their children, in collaboration with the Austrian Platform for Single Parents, the Association of Feminist Single Parents and the Anti-Poverty Network.

It is also introducing a range of measures against violence towards women and domestic violence, which also benefit children affected by violence and are aimed at the long-term sustainable prevention of poverty. For example, countrywide measures to prevent male violence in the domestic environment have been continued since 2023. The *StoP – Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt* (neighbourhoods without partner violence) project, funded by the BMSGPK, has in the meantime been expanded to 30 locations. The PERSPEKTIVE:ARBEIT – ökonomisches und soziales Empowerment von gewaltbetroffenen Frauen (economic and social empowerment of women affected by violence) project has been rolled out and is being implemented in Styria, Lower Austria and Vienna as a long-term advisory and care facility. Support for the Aus- und Weiterbildung für Besuchsbegleiter:innen (training for home support workers) course and the Afrikanischen Frauenorganisation zur Prävention und Eliminierung von weiblicher Genitalverstümmelung in Österreich (African women's association for the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation in Austria) project has continued, benefiting children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The FGM/C coordination point, which receives financial support from the BKA, has provided advice, information and support on all aspects of female genital mutilation since 2022. This is a network comprising the FEM Süd Women's Health Centre, the Austrian Red Cross, the Linz and Salzburg Women's Health Centres and the MEN Men's Health Centre and serves as a contact point for those in need of help, experts, specialists and communities and to connect all actors in the field.

The Federal Government is also focusing on support for children who have fled to Austria from Ukraine. Since the amendment to the Family Allowance Act 1967 (BGBl. No 135/2022) came into force, people displaced from Ukraine, who are entitled to a temporary right to stay under the Displaced Persons Regulation in accordance with Section 62(1) of the Asylum Act 2005, have had the right to family allowance for their children, who have the same right to stay. Eligibility for the allowance for this group of people is currently due to end in March 2025 under the Family Allowance Act 1967.

Parents of babies and infants can also receive childcare allowance if they are recognised as displaced persons (with a temporary right to stay) and they meet the other eligibility conditions (currently due to end in March 2025).

As soon as the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine began, the BMBWF introduced measures to place children and young people in the Austrian education system. Building on the EU directives, as soon as the conflict started, efforts were made to integrate all the Ukrainian schoolchildren into Austrian educational establishments on the basis of the Austrian legislative standards on schools and education.

This was, and remains, crucial, as Austria aims to enable all children and young people to gain Austrian educational qualifications from school or via an apprenticeship or vocational training. This initiative neither was nor is a given across the Member States, since in some countries, parallel Ukrainian education systems have developed which are independent of the national system. This could lead to a challenging social and integration-policy situation in the medium or long term.

At the beginning of the war, systems were also set up in schools whereby lessons in Ukraine could continue to be followed online. To this end, schoolchildren from Ukraine were equipped with suitable terminals, which they are still using. In general, equipping the children and young people concerned with such materials was and is a measure which is applied on an ad hoc basis.

Promoting German as soon as possible as the language of schooling and as the official language is essential for integration into school and society in Austria. As soon as the war of aggression began, the existing language support and remedial teaching arrangements were called upon and additional catch-up classes and courses for German were set up automatically.

Regarding primary education, the provinces were advised that unused funds in the context of the agreements between the Federal Government and the provinces for new kindergarten groups could also be used in the short term. This would enable children from Ukraine to enter kindergarten.

Transition courses were subsequently introduced for young Ukrainians no longer in statutory education to prepare them for a move to further school and training courses. These have a focus on languages and the consolidation and development of existing competences. A range of integration measures are also available for displaced children and young people from Ukraine. The 'Austrian Integration Fund' (*Österreichischen Integrationsfonds – ÖIF*) has set up a buddy programme, in conjunction with the BKA, the BMBWF and the State secretariat for youth and voluntary organisations, in which

young volunteers help to familiarise young displaced Ukrainians with Austria and its people. The 'ÖIF-Deutschlern-Turnbeutel' provides children and their parents with basic vocabulary for various everyday situations.

Framework conditions have also been established to enable Ukrainian teachers to be employed in Austrian schools to aid their integration in the labour market. Comprehensive information was produced to accompany these measures. Since 1 April 2023, persons from Ukraine have had free access to the Austrian labour market, meaning that they do not need a work permit to take up a job. Employment is a key means of preventing family poverty.

Objectives were set in Austria's National Action Plan for all key elements of the Child Guarantee, with indicators to monitor their achievement. As mentioned above, the target indicators of the National Action Plan in the areas of poverty and social exclusion are not yet moving in the right direction as a result of the exceptional situation, in particular the persistent inflation crisis. However, the anti-inflation packages adopted by the Federal Government have considerably cushioned the negative impact of price rises in many areas, as shown by the study by the Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH quoted above.

3 Target groups

This chapter provides a numerical overview of the target groups based on the recommendation to introduce the Child Guarantee. The data shown are taken mainly from the monitoring tables in the Annex.

Children and young people affected by poverty or social exclusion

The risk of poverty or social exclusion is the main indicator for measuring social disadvantage. According to the EU-SILC survey, 376 000 people aged from 0 to 17 (22.7% of children and young people) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023. This was a slight increase of 23 000 (0.9 percentage points) over the previous year. Despite the high inflation, there was no significant change in the 'risk of poverty' sub-indicator. There was, however, a marked increase in the 'severe material and social deprivation of 0–17-year-olds' indicator. Despite the comprehensive financial support of the Federal Government (see Chapter 2), the proportion of those affected more than doubled in 2023, from 2.2% to 5.3%. This represents an increase of 52 000 in one year. These are people who cannot afford at least 7 out of 13 specific goods, services or social activities (e.g. unexpected expenses, holidays, keeping home adequately warm). The BMSGPK has commissioned a science-based study to investigate, among other things, why the two indicators are evolving so differently, with the results expected in spring 2025.

Children and young people with disabilities

According to the EU-SILC child module, in 2021 there were 49 000 people aged from 0 to 15 in Austria with permanent health impairments. This is 3.5% of all 0–15-year-olds. A quarter of these (24.2%) are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, which is slightly above the Austrian average.

Children and young people with health problems

Children and young people who are overweight or obese in most cases carry this condition into adulthood. Overweight and obesity in adulthood are associated with a large number of secondary diseases such as type 2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, dementia and some cancers. The proportion of overweight or obese 8-year-olds was 30% for boys and 24% for girls in survey year 2022/2023. The figures for the 11–17 age-group indicate a deterioration in this area. The proportion of overweight or obese young people increased from 16% in 2018 to 21% in 2022 (+5 percentage points). The risk is much higher for boys (26%) than for girls (17%). The deterioration was much more marked in the group of young people from low-income families. Here, the proportion has risen from 21% to 29% – an increase of 7 percentage points – since 2018.

The situation has also grown significantly worse since 2018 with the 'mental health of 11–17-year-olds' indicator. The proportion of young people who rarely or never suffer from any mental health complaint – irritation / bad mood, nervousness, problems falling asleep or dejection – fell from 74% to 66% in 2022. Girls more rarely display mental health complaints than boys (56% as against 76%). The indicator for the group of young people from low-income families shows no divergence from the overall values.

From 2018 to 2022 there was an increase from 34% to 36% in the proportion of 11–17-year-olds who reported excellent health. However, although the general state of health of this age group improved, the figures for the group of young people from low-income families showed a decline in the same period, from 32% to 26%, with socio-economically disadvantaged young people falling considerably behind.

Children and young people with a migrant background

29% of Austrian children and young people have a migrant background, i.e. both parents were born abroad. Those below the age of 17 without a migrant background are most seldom affected by poverty or social exclusion (15%). The proportions for children and young people from Turkey (38%) and third countries (68%) are particularly high. Overall, children and young people with a migrant background have a 45% risk of poverty or social exclusion. Conversely, half of all 0–7-year-olds (50%) at risk of poverty or social exclusion have a migrant background.

The number of asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seekers more than doubled between 2021 and 2022, to 13 276. The vast majority of these (9 371) were submitted by Afghan citizens. In 2023 the number of applications fell to 4 946.

Children with a migrant background often require language support when they start attending primary school. The aim is to reduce as far as possible the number of children in need of language support by the end of their primary education (see the chapter 'Key Element: Early Childhood Education and Care'). Whilst the reduction in 2019 was 30%, the success rate has gone down since then and never exceeded 22.5% in the years 2020 to 2023.

Children and young people in alternative kinds of care

In Austria, 0.5% of children and young people (around 8 100) live in socio-educational institutions, with 0.3% (around 5 100) living with a carer or in a foster family. There was no change to these figures between 2021 and 2023.

Children and young people in challenging family situations

The figures for children in challenging family situations are based mainly on three-year averages due to low case numbers. There were few changes between the periods 2020–2022 and 2021–2023. Certain groups of households remain at a significantly higher risk of poverty or social exclusion. In single-parent households, the rate of risk of poverty or social exclusion among children and young people averaged 53% in the period 2021–2023. The figure was 40% where one parent has a disability and 33% in households with three or more children. Nevertheless, for two-parent and single-parent households with up to four children, a large part of the inflation of around 17% that has occurred since 2021 has been cushioned by the structural changes made to the transfer system and by the temporary measures introduced.

Children and young people who are homeless or have housing problems

Households with children affected by poverty or social exclusion often cannot afford adequate housing. 38% (138 000) of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion live in overcrowded conditions, 17% (64 000) live in housing where there is damp or mould, and 12.1% (44 000) live in homes which are dark. While a total of 54% (886 000) of children and young people live in a situation of house or apartment ownership, the figure is just 21.6% for children and young people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Accordingly, the latter group lives more frequently in municipal or cooperative housing.

One in a thousand 0–17-year-olds (around 2 100) was registered as homeless in 2023. The figure has not changed since 2021. The undisclosed figure can be presumed to be higher. The BMSGPK commissioned a [feasibility study](#) to measure homelessness more accurately (see the chapter ‘Key Element: Adequate Housing’).



4 Key Element 'Early Childhood Education and Care'

In the area of language support, the BMBWF is currently working on a revision of the curriculum of the 5-year primary teacher training course. The compulsory subject 'Early language education and support' will also be revised on the basis of science-based recommendations and current developments, so that graduates will be best prepared to support children in primary schools with their language development.

The BMBWF is also commissioning teaching materials to help (prospective) primary teachers with their work. 20 videos were recently produced on behalf of the BMBWF by various experts on physical education in primary schools, and, in cooperation with colleges of education, an online toolbox on 'self-care and team resilience' and an interactive picture book combining language support and education for sustainable development have been issued.

In the Advisory Council on Primary Education, the BMBWF is engaged in ongoing exchanges with the provinces and other relevant stakeholders from the field of primary education in order to improve the quality of primary education in Austria and contribute to implementing the Austrian National Action Plan on the European Child Guarantee.

Under the agreement between the Federal Government and the provinces on primary education pursuant to Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act, EUR 200 million – 40% more than in previous years – is available annually for kindergarten years 2022/23 to 2026/27 for the expansion of appropriate basic primary education and childcare provision, as well as for early language support and implementation of the school attendance requirement. At least EUR 61 million of this must be invested in the expansion to enable the increased provision to be implemented. This targeted federal subsidy will be made available to the provinces in two EUR 100 million instalments each year, in September and March of the relevant kindergarten year.

The federal contribution has made it possible, in particular, to increase the education provision for young children below the age of three and to extend opening hours to ensure compatibility with both parents being in full-time employment. In kindergarten year 2023/24, 35% of children below the age of three attended primary school (an increase of 2.9 percentage points over 2022/23), and 57.8% of children aged 3–5 attended institutions which complied with the 'Family and Occupation'² compatibility indicator (an increase of 8.2 percentage points over 2022/23).

² Qualified child education and care with regular opening hours of at least 45 hours a week on at least 5 days a week, for 47 weeks a year and with meal provided

Starting from 2024, during the current financial compensation period, an additional EUR 500 million per year will be available from the Future Fund, which will be adjusted annually to enable investment in accelerated expansion and improvements to quality.

Each year since reporting year 2022/23, a Monitoring report has been published, in addition to the statistics on primary education and day nurseries, to facilitate the monitoring of the impact of these investments. The report analyses the core metrics of progress at provincial and district level.

Austria has used the European Commission's 2021 focus on the European Child Guarantee under the Technical Support Instrument for the area of primary education. Autumn 2024 saw the official closure of the 2-year 'Improvements to the framework conditions for staff for improving quality in early childhood education and care in Austria' project. The aim of the project was to improve the framework conditions and the situation of teaching staff in the field of primary education by the use of instruments developed together with the provinces and with the involvement of other relevant stakeholders and thereby to improve the quality of primary education in Austria. The aim is to produce improvements to the quality, availability and stability of teaching staff and a reduction in staff absences, thereby improving access to and the quality of primary education provision. In a first phase of the project, sector analysis and a desk review were carried out to enable the current state of primary education to be identified. These findings, together with a report on examples of good practice from other Member States, provided a basis for a recommendation report to Austria. The project working group, which comprised various stakeholders in the field of primary education, drew up corresponding proposals for action to be taken by Austria on the basis of the recommendation report.

In addition, specific measures have recently been taken in the provinces to continuously increase and improve the provision of and access to early childhood education and care.

Free education programmes, which have existed for a long time in Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tyrol and Vienna and also in the context of the compulsory kindergarten year throughout the country, are provided as a way of removing barriers to accessing primary education. In Carinthia, the introduction in September 2023 of the 'parental contribution reimbursement' enabled free access to early childhood education. Legal guardians need pay only the food and craftwork costs, as well as making contributions for extra activities. This reduces the financial burden.

Burgenland recently introduced an equal opportunities package which includes free kindergarten provision throughout the province, ensuring that access is no longer dependent on families' social environment and financial situation.

The law on child education and care recently adopted in Vorarlberg has a similar objective, establishing a duty of care for every municipality. It states that every child aged 3–5 shall, if needed, have a full-time place starting from the 2023/24 day care year, regardless of whether or not their parents are in paid employment. Every child of primary-school age in statutory schooling must also be given an afternoon childcare place starting from 2024/25 (except in holiday periods), and every 2-year-old must be given a half-day place in a kindergarten starting from 2025/26. Improvements have also taken place in Vorarlberg in terms of the social gradation of parental contributions, with similar initiatives in other provinces.

5 Key element ‘Inclusive education and school-based activities’



The BMBWF is currently making more resources available for German language support. The funding for special pupils in German catch-up classes and courses was increased on a permanent basis by EUR 10 million from the 2023/24 academic year. This enabled the BMBWF to make an extra 135 posts available, making a total of 577. The additional teaching staff can be used to split particularly large or heterogeneous groups or to help pupils with a migrant background in a more targeted, individual way through team teaching. An extra EUR 4.5 million per year has been allocated since 2022 to provide German language support for pupils in primary education even after the transition from extraordinary to ordinary status. This enables the provision of targeted support aimed at improving their linguistic competence in German.



Family reunification has led to a large number of Arabic-speaking pupils (whose previous schooling was outside the Austrian education system) transferring into Austrian schools in recent months. At the request of the BMBWF, a book entitled ‘Starting School’ (*Mein Start in die Schule*) has been produced specially for this group by the Austrian Red Cross Youth to support children and young people who have not yet attended school and must first learn German as the classroom language. Taking a playful approach, the book gives pupils an initial orientation, helping them to integrate into the school environment and preparing them for literacy training. It also contains important information for parents, in German and Arabic, aimed at helping teachers and parents to work together, which is essential for the children and young people concerned to be able to learn at school. The book was introduced in summer schools in August 2024 and made available for the 2024/25 academic year. As a way of promoting individual empowerment, ‘integration ambassadors’ are giving talks in schools, as part of the ‘TOGETHER: AUSTRIA’ (*ZUSAMMEN:ÖSTERREICH*) initiative, on integration and their life in Austria and discussing with young people with and without a migrant background ways of living together harmoniously.

Reading competence is crucial for successful education and career development, as well as for social, cultural and democratic participation. In order effectively to ensure and sustainably improve pupils’ reading competence, the BMBWF worked with education directorates and other reading experts to develop the countrywide ‘reading quality seal’ for primary schools, which will be conferred for the first time in spring 2025. This is a way of affording recognition to primary schools which motivate their pupils to read and improve their reading ability through real commitment and a variety of effective methods. Pupils who attend a school awarded the seal benefit from the school’s reading culture, attractive reading rooms, diagnosis-based promotion of reading throughout and ways of encouraging reading and literary education with measures targeting specific groups.

The 'Disability 2022–2030' National Action Plan (see the chapter 'Special topic: Inclusion of children and young people with disabilities') aims to develop an inclusive school system. The special education curricula have been revised and further developed on the basis of the 2023 curricula to produce new, competence-oriented curricula for primary schools, secondary schools and the lower classes of general secondary schools. They reflect the understanding of disability as a bio-psycho-social concept on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and focus on resources and competences alongside the educational and development potential of every individual. The curricula for special needs schools currently in use have been transformed into a modern concept comprising curricula and curriculum supplements and can be combined in a flexible way, according to individual educational and development requirements. They ensure targeted support in various special needs areas and enable competence-oriented learning with an approach based on inclusion. The content and timetables have been adapted as far as possible to those of the primary and secondary schools and the lower classes of general secondary schools and harmonised across the different curricula and curriculum supplements. This will make implementation in the inclusive setting easier in future. The new, competence-oriented curricula and curriculum supplements for special education were developed with the involvement of teachers of specific subject areas, stakeholders in the field of education and interest groups representing persons with disabilities.

The results of the Studie zur Evaluierung der Vergabep Praxis des sonderpädagogischen Förderbedarfs (Evaluation of the procurement practice of special educational needs) in respect of measures to support vulnerable pupils were made available in autumn 2023. These formed the basis, firstly, for drawing up recommendations for implementing the evaluation procedure, which include templates to support (special needs) teachers in their everyday work and to make the procedure more efficient, more consistent and more needs-oriented. A further step will comprise the critical evaluation and further development of the procedure as a whole. This project is currently in the planning phase.

A number of measures are being developed at provincial level aimed at further expanding inclusive education provision. In Burgenland, for example, free extra tuition has been introduced, with the provincial government boosting staffing resources to make extra tuition accessible to pupils from all levels of society.

In Salzburg, interdisciplinary groups developed a handbook and guidelines to support school communities. These focus on the prevention of all kinds of violence and disadvantages, early recognition of dangerous situations and reinforcement of schools as violence-free places where there is mutual respect and appreciation. There is a requirement for schools to produce their own codes of conduct starting from the 2024/25 academic year.

Furthermore, every school in Salzburg will now be provided, at their request, with assistants for pupils with disabilities, which will enable them to take a full part in lessons and extra-curricular school activities (trips, project days, 'reading nights') with the help of care personnel.

A series of training sessions on de-escalation strategies in special needs schools has recently been held throughout Lower Austria. These were produced at the wish of special education practitioners and essentially comprised de-escalation and safety-management strategies. The objective was to ensure early recognition and assessment of scenarios involving aggression and danger, and the use of de-escalation strategies and conflict-management tools. These measures currently form the basis of an overall concept for this training using a scientific approach.

Lower Austria also has a cooperative day clinic where specialists in child and adolescent psychiatry work with schools to develop ideas for pupils in the primary sector wherever interventions in schools have not been able to resolve specific situations. The project aims, among other things, to use early intervention to enable reintegration in the class group, prevent problems from becoming entrenched, and increase support for social competences and tolerance in class groups.



6 Key element ‘A healthy meal each school day’

There are different responsibilities, financing arrangements and liabilities governing the tendering for and procurement of food services in Austria depending on the type of school. The BMSGPK has worked together with the Austrian Health and Food Safety Agency (AGES) and other organisations for many years on improving catering in schools. Recommendations for catering provision for children and young people have been drawn up with the involvement of the expertise and experience of actors from catering in the provinces and experts from the National Food Commission and the ‘Eat well right from the start’ (REVAN) programme. This includes the ‘Our school canteen’ initiative, the Austrian recommendation for providing school meals, the checklist for school catering, and the school canteen guidelines, which were updated in 2024. Another initiative has made available guidance and training / advice for school canteen operators (e.g. a tool for evaluating the food in school canteens).

As well as providing the criteria and recommendations for healthy school food, the ‘Catering competence centre’ has been set up in the AGES as an information and exchange platform. Here, everything is geared to ensuring that the recommendations made can be further harmonised and implemented countrywide.

Healthy school meals form part of the care plans of all-day schools. These are firmly established in the curriculum and were revised in 2023/24. All-day schools are required to submit an all-day school concept detailing how it meets pre-determined quality criteria on the basis of the care plans. This includes details on the catering arrangements. The province of Vienna states that it does not ask for payment for meal in its all-day schools. A survey covering the 2023/24 academic year showed that Vienna had 283 all-day statutory educational establishments, with 63 354 pupils enrolled in the non-classroom component at these schools.

The ‘It does you good’ initiative and programme platform of the provincial health agency and the province of Lower Austria makes an essential contribution to the above-mentioned key areas in a number of fields, ranging from exercise programmes, through products and activities on the subject of nutrition and mental health to tailor-made programmes for schools (see [Bewegte Klasse](#) [Dynamic class], [Gesunde Schule](#) [Healthy school], [Vitalküche für Bildungseinrichtungen](#) [Healthy cooking for schools] and ‘H2NOE water schools’ [[H2NOE-Wasserschule in NÖ](#)] in Lower Austria). The water schools will be described as an example of the scale and extent of each of these programmes.

The [H2NOE-Wasserschulen](#) in Lower Austria ensure that their pupils drink adequate amounts of water. This promotes performance capability and is key in protecting against caries and overweight, takes some weight out of the school bag and makes a habit

out of healthy living. This is something which is easy to integrate into the school day. Each child receives their own bottle, which is used only for water. Regular drink breaks ensure that children drink enough. This enables children to develop healthy drinking habits and consciously decide in favour of water as an alternative to other drinks. The project started life in the 2018/19 academic year. 40 primary and special needs schools and 10 secondary schools are introducing the H2NOE Water School initiative in the 2023/24 academic year. This will bring the total number of H2NOE Water Schools in Lower Austria to 286.

However, schools themselves are also taking action. The Sport- und Vitalmittelschule Korneuburg (Korneuburg Sport and Health Secondary School) in Lower Austria places great emphasis on promoting health and wellbeing. A key element in the area of nutrition has for many years been the 'Food workshop' in school year 7. This is an intensive project week in which pupils tackle food topics in a theoretical and a practical way. The school subject 'Nutrition and budget' acquires greater meaning in this context. The week is put together mainly by external experts and aims to give pupils a change from their normal schooldays. The involvement of specialists also encourages acceptance and interest among young people. Alongside the workshops, they conduct research into nutrition topics and present the results to their fellow pupils. Activities supported by a number of organisations such as the Lower Austria Provincial Chamber of Commerce, Bio Austria NÖ, Global 2000, the Beekeepers' Association and the Austrian Society and Economy Museum are used. The activities are financed by the school, and meal, prepared in line with the healthy cooking criteria, is also provided.

Daily nutrition plays a crucial role in the development and health of children and young people. The Vorarlberg provincial project Kinder.Essen.Körig (Children.Food.Tasty) aims to promote high-quality, regional, organic and healthy school meals. This is why the Vorarlberg provincial government decided to promote and financially support healthy school meals. The figures at the end of the first year were positive: some 440 000 meals using regional and organic food products were served in 110 primary schools in 61 municipalities. The project is being expanded into secondary schools and grammar schools from the 2024/25 school year. A total of 220 schools from the 96 municipalities in Vorarlberg were able to take part, with funding totalling EUR 2.3 million.

All children from families in Vorarlberg receiving social assistance or primary care can also purchase a hot, healthy meal in early childhood, education and care facilities or in schools for a minimal fee. The province of Vorarlberg and the municipalities finance every meal to a maximum of EUR 5 by means of the social fund.



7 Key element 'Health care'

Austria has developed and revised strategies and introduced new initiatives to improve the health of children and young people.

The Kinder- und Jugendgesundheitsstrategie 2024 (2024 Children's and Young People's Health Strategy) is the most important strategic framework for sustainably improving children's and young people's health in Austria. In 2024 the BMSGPK revised and further developed this strategy based on new evidence on the challenges and the associated strategic need for action which has emerged in recent years. Among other things, indicators for the long-term evaluation of the implementation of specific measures in cross-sectoral competence, were expanded. This enables the strategy to contribute in particular to the key element 'Health care provision' and the objective of further developing monitoring of children's and young people's health.

Social security is both an important strategic partner of national strategies, such as health objectives and the national child and youth strategy, and directly responsible for the implementation of specific topics as a part of its statutory role. The Sozialversicherungsstrategie Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit (2022–2025) was presented in 2022 and forms the framework for improving children's and young people's health and optimised care. The strategy will enable the areas of care, the promotion of health, and prevention, together with communication around children's and young people's health, to be revised, improved in terms of content and quality, and expanded according to requirements.

At the end of 2023, in the course of the fiscal equalisation exercise, the federal government, the provinces and the social security system adopted a comprehensive health care reform aimed at providing a sustainable, high-quality health care system. Key elements of the reform, based on the 'Digital before outpatient before inpatient' (*Digital vor ambulant vor stationär*) principle, are:

- qualitative and quantitative development of existing hospital outpatient facilities, for which the federal government made an extra EUR 5 billion available for the period 2024–2028;
- development of digitisation in the health care system, particularly in the area of telemedicine. EUR 51 million is being allocated for this by the federal government, the provinces and the social security system;
- financing totalling EUR 21 million annually for a comprehensive range of measures in the area of 'Early-years assistance' (*Frühe Hilfen*) provided by the federal government, the provinces and the social security system.

The additional federal government funds to boost existing facilities are to be used primarily for larger primary healthcare units and multiprofessional and /or interdisciplinary units with the creation of more health insurance fund doctor posts and improvements to performance, such as ensuring care provision at off-peak times and weekends. This will benefit children with disorders or disabilities in particular, since they often require multiprofessional, interdisciplinary care.

An amendment in August 2023 to the Primary Health Care Act (*Primärversorgungsgesetz*) enabled the establishment of child primary healthcare units, i.e. cooperation between paediatrics specialists in the form of primary healthcare units.

The additional funding for structural reforms and boosting outpatient facilities is to be used particularly for establishing and expanding outpatient services (including telemedicine). This will target specifically mental health care for children and young people, including innovative forms of care.

The additional funding for digitisation / eHealth (primarily telemedicine) is intended principally to bolster the 'Digital before outpatient before inpatient' principle with the large-scale creation and expansion of telemedicine services, further development and expansion of the '1450 health care advice' hotline service, and the creation of eHealth provision as part of the established provision.

Frühen Hilfen provides parents (to-be) and families with young children in difficult circumstances with tailored support with the aim of ensuring equality of opportunity in health care. To this end, regional 'Frühe Hilfen' networks have been set up and expanded throughout the country since 2015 according to a single basic model. In 2022 and 2023 the comprehensive countrywide expansion of 'Frühe Hilfen' services was funded by the EU's NextGenerationEU programme as part of Austria's recovery and resilience plan. This programme has been available to families in need throughout Austria since 2023 and from 2024 to 2028 will be financed by the federal government, the provinces and the social security system.

Meaningful data are necessary for the fact-based strategic management of health care, since the significance for health of different aspects of life (e.g. work, housing, security) becomes clear only with health reporting which is oriented to the social context. For this reason, Burgenland has commissioned Forschung Burgenland GmbH to conduct a comprehensive Studie zur Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit (Study of Children's and Young People's Health) in the province, with new data then forming the basis for recommendations for action.

The 'mother-child passport' (*Mutter-Kind-Pass*) was renamed the Eltern-Kind-Pass (parent-child-passport) by the 'Parent-child-passport Act' (*Eltern-Kind-Pass-Gesetz* –

EKPG) on 1 January 2024. With financing from the NextGenerationEU programme it will become the electronic parent-child-passport, with plans to make it available in digital form in 2026. The monitoring programme, of which two thirds will be financed by the Family Burdens Equalisation Fund (*Familienlastenausgleichsfond – FLAF*), will in future be free of charge and supplemented by other services. Among other things, the new parent-child-passport will facilitate counselling for parents-to-be on the most important aspects of the new stage in their life, such as how to share parenting time as partners, parental leave, childcare allowance, paternity leave and the impact of, for example, part-time work on pensions. A total of EUR 22.1 million is available for family counselling in 2024: an increase of 75% over 2020.

Various projects are being carried out by members of the Österreichischen Plattform für Gesundheitskompetenz (ÖPGK) (Austrian Platform for Health Literacy) to promote health literacy among children and young people, thereby supporting growing up healthily:

The ABC der psychosozialen Gesundheit junger Menschen (ABC of young people's psychosocial health) project aims to boost the health literacy of young people, teachers and youth workers in the area of psychosocial health. feel-ok.at provides free, evidence-based information on health which is geared to young people and also regional counselling centres, in order to support young people in developing their health literacy. The Gesundheitskompetente offene Jugendarbeit (Health-literate open youth work) project in the municipal setting helps organisations involved in open youth work in Austria to deal systematically with their organisational health literacy and engage with the concept of health-literate open youth work. And the GET – Gesunde Entscheidungen treffen (Making healthy decisions) project supports the teaching of health literacy from the start of schooling, by means of seven topics at primary school and ten at secondary level. The GET Interkult project expands on the GET with culturally sensitive supplementary material on exercise, nutrition, psychosocial literacy, and prevention and care. The Social Security organisation for the Self-employed (SVS) organises Fit und G'sund (Fit and healthy') holiday camps for children and young people aimed at promoting health and prevention, which improve health literacy and promote the ability to make healthy decisions independently. The Trialog Gesundheitskompetente Jugendarbeit (Health-literate youth work trilogy) addresses problems such as inadequate health and climate literacy among socioeconomically disadvantaged young people, the impact of crises, and the need for participatory processes for disadvantaged young people.

As part of the health care reform referred to above, the benefits-in-kind system in particular will be reinforced in the context of boosting of mental health, taking into account innovative approaches, with complementary planning parameters anchored in the Austrian 'Structural Plan for Health' (*Strukturplan Gesundheit*). Examples of these innovative approaches are home treatment, municipality-based mobile teams for seriously ill patients (F-ACT), and transition psychiatry. There are also plans for the needs-based

development and expansion of multiprofessional psychosocial and psychiatric care structures for children and young people.

The BMSGPK's *Gesund aus der Krise* (Surviving a crisis in good shape) project will again be extended, until mid-2025, as a result of continuing demand. The third phase of the project, which is being funded to the tune of EUR 19 million, will see the addition of music therapy to the psychotherapeutic and psychological support programme for children and young people.

Young people suffered enormous mental strain during the pandemic. Women and girls were affected more seriously and in a different way by the impact of the pandemic and suffered considerable distress. In order to improve the mental health of girls and young women, the 'Self-worth+' (*Selbstwert+*) project provides countrywide low-threshold activities such as individual consultations, group consultations and workshops, produces information materials and runs an awareness-raising campaign on social media. This is a joint project involving six Austrian women's health centres working with other regional cooperation partners. The BMSGPK is funding the project to the tune of EUR 1.8 million for the period May 2022 to December 2024.

Socioeconomically disadvantaged young people can also benefit from readily accessible psychological support thanks to schools offering more consultations with educational psychologists, who play an important role in screening for developmental impairments and mental health disorders. They work closely with other psychosocial services and health professionals and make referrals for further therapy and to the 'Gesund aus der Krise' project, which was developed jointly with the BMBWF. They also advise teaching and school management staff on how to deal with mental strain, and they implement school development projects (e.g. creating a healthy school environment) and contribute to mental health through meetings with parents and educational guidance.

In the 2024/25 academic year, all schools will benefit from the development of child protection schemes. These aim to tackle the mental strain and disorders of children and young people of school age, which have increased markedly, and the correspondingly greater need for psychological care through the creation of more posts in educational psychology.

The special guidelines entitled 'Boosting crisis intervention in Austria' (*Stärkung der Krisenintervention in Österreich*) have also been expanded, with the addition of a fourth priority category. Psychosocial follow-up provision can, since August 2024, also be supported by child protection centres. This includes, for example, the expansion of crisis intervention provision by child protection centres for children and young people affected by violence, telephone counselling or awareness-raising activities on the subject of violence towards children and young people.

Together with the Austrian Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK), the province of Salzburg is developing variable therapy modules attuned to the individual care needs of Kinder und Jugendlichen mit Autismus-Spektrum-Störung (Children and young people with autism spectrum disorders). These are also aimed at making the environment surrounding these children and young people more robust (with advice and training for parents and their involvement in therapy, and advice / information and training for care persons in schools or child care facilities). As a result, the increasing number of autistic children and young people in need of care can be tackled effectively and waiting times reduced.

The competence centres for children and young people in Upper Austria enable a range of individual services to be offered at one location and with no need for a doctor's referral. Families with in some cases multiple psychosocial risk factors in particular have low-threshold and, where possible, barrier-free access to therapy and consultation as well as training and diagnosis. The Mühlviertel Children's and Young People's Competence Centre of the Gallneukirchen social welfare organisation in Engerwitzdorf, financed together with the ÖGK, started work in autumn 2024.

Tyrol has around 90 parent counselling centres, which families can visit with their 0–4-year-old children free of charge and without an appointment. During the visit, the children are weighed and measured, their general state of health and development is checked, and questions about development, sleep, age-appropriate nutrition, breast-feeding, potty training etc. are answered. The centres also provide free and low-cost courses from pregnancy to the child's first year of life (pre-natal courses, postpartum, infant care, supplementary food workshops etc.).

8 Key element ‘Healthy nutrition’

The BMSGPK recently implemented various measures to improve nutritional quality and the dietary habits of children and young people.

New results from the ‘Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly’ procedure in Austria were published in 2024 with the appearance of the Handlungsempfehlungen für ein stillfreundliches Österreich (Recommendations for action for a baby-friendly Austria) outcome report. This provided the basis for 14 strategic recommendations for action and associated measures which resulted from a year-long process. As well as ensuring sustainable financing for measures and activities to support infants, support for structures such as the ‘Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative’ in the health care system and increasing the awareness and implementation of the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding, the implementation of standardised, evidence-based and stigma-free breastfeeding information for health care professionals also constitutes a specific recommendation.

The Österreichischen Ernährungsempfehlungen (Austrian Dietary Guidelines) have been updated and expanded. These are food-based dietary guidelines which use food groups to set out the optimum composition of a healthy diet. Configured as a food pyramid, they draw on evidence-based recommendations for nutritional intake and awareness for preventing diet-related illness. Current developments, particularly the food system as a driver of climate change, require the Austrian dietary guidelines to be expanded to include climate and health parameters. Together with guidelines for omnivores, vegetarian dietary guidelines have also been drawn up on the basis of scientific principles.

The gesunde und nachhaltige Teller (healthy and sustainable plate) has been adapted for Austria and will supplement the food pyramid in the way it presents the dietary guidelines. The ‘plate model’ illustrates the optimum composition of a meal, showing at a glance the recommended proportions of different foods. It can be used for all dietary variations. The Gesund essen, gut fürs Klima (Healthy eating: good for the climate) recipe book has been put together on the basis of the ‘plate’ model to encourage the practical implementation of a healthy, climate-friendly diet.

Nutritional competence and planning are a must if a vegan diet is to satisfy requirements and promote health. FAQs und Empfehlungen (FAQs and recommendations) on implementing a vegan diet have been drawn up by the Austrian Food Association alongside the Austrian dietary guidelines. These are aimed at supporting vegans with their diets and providing them with security and guidance, and explicitly target vulnerable groups such as pregnant and breastfeeding women, children and infants, and young people, who need to ensure their requirements are met. Detailed, substantiated questions and answers are provided, together with practical tips on implementation.



The 'Guidelines for School Cafeterias' helps with the practical implementation of healthy food provision in school canteens and is being used successfully to optimise snack provision. The guidance has been updated on the basis of a wealth of practical experience. The plan is to optimise the food provision in all Austrian schools through the gradual replacement of less desirable products by healthy food. The criteria for the individual food groups have been adapted to current requirements, including those relating to sustainability and climate protection. Since vending machines play an important role in schools alongside canteens, criteria have been developed to govern what they contain. Materials are being produced to help school canteen operators, advisory staff and school employees with the practical implementation of the aktualisierten Leitlinie Schulbuffet (updated guidelines for school cafeterias).

The Einblick in das digitale Werbeumfeld von Kindern und Jugendlichen (Insight into the digital advertising environment of children and young people) study commissioned by the BMSGPK shows that advertising unhealthy food to children and young people has a negative impact on their health. Unhealthy food advertising is everywhere, according to the study, and the recommendations of the National Food and Nutrition Commission for protecting children and young people from food advertising are overwhelmingly ignored. The need for action is greatest in the statutory regulation of food advertising for children and young people.

Austria took part in the WHO's Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) for the third time. The COSI Erhebung 2022/2023 (2022/2023 COSI survey) provided representative data from across Austria on the prevalence of overweight and obese children in class 3. The survey showed that the prevalence of overweight and obese individuals had barely changed since the first Austrian COSI survey in the 2016/17 school year. Children and young people who are overweight or obese in most cases carry this condition into adulthood. Chronic obesity is a major burden not only on the individuals concerned and their families but also on the health care system, the job market and the pension system.

As part of the Initiative Kinder essen gesund (Children eating healthily) initiative of the Austrian Health Promotion Fund (*Fonds Gesundes Österreich*), which is geared to improving the diet of children aged between 4 and 10, a range of measures (a toolbox, videos, children's recipe book etc., and practical projects) has been developed to reach children, parents, teachers, catering operators and municipalities. The aim is to secure measures to promote health and ensure climate-friendly diet in the primary school setting and reach in particular socially disadvantaged target groups.

9 Key element ‘Adequate housing’

Austria signed the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combating Homelessness in June 2021, thereby committing to working towards an end to homelessness by 2030.

In order to meet this ambitious target, Austria is taking major steps towards preventing and ending homelessness with its countrywide housing umbrella (*WOHNSCHIRM*) and HOUSING FIRST support programmes. The budget for implementing the programmes has been increased to EUR 264 million by the end of 2026. Work has also been done on improving the current inadequate data situation with the commissioning of a feasibility study on homelessness and precarious housing.

Since March 2022, the BMSGPK’s WOHNSCHIRM programme has offered support to tenants who are no longer able to pay their rent due to the current rates of inflation and are consequently at risk of losing their accommodation. Since January 2023, people on low incomes who are in arrears with their energy bills due to rising prices have also been supported.

The rental component of the housing umbrella (*WOHNSCHIRM Miete*) programme has so far prevented over 11 000 households (26 000 people) from losing their homes. The proportion of women and children affected is extremely high: 54% of the adults receiving support are women, and 44% of the households have minor-aged children.

The energy component of the housing umbrella (*WOHNSCHIRM Energie*) programme has helped 28 000 households (77 000 people) to pay their energy bills. Here too, a disproportionate number of households with children has received support, with children making up over 40% of the people supported.

Since autumn 2023, the LWA-G has meant that Austria has a basis in federal law for implementing support for homeless people in the form of the Housing First Principle. This is an internationally proven model for combating homelessness in the long term. Homeless people are provided with affordable housing and are accompanied and cared for by social workers on a voluntary basis.

The provision of affordable housing together with care from social workers is at the heart of the support. In addition, rental costs (deposits and financing contributions) can be met by programme funds and needs-based start-up funding can be provided. The programme supports homeless people who are unable to escape or prevent homelessness with their own resources.



The countrywide programme began on 1 October 2024. It was preceded by two pilot projects which were organised along the same lines and were financed by the BMSPGK: 'getting home' (*zu Hause ankommen*) and 'housing first Austria – getting home'.

These showed that even target groups which were difficult to reach through 'classical' means of support for the homeless (such as emergency accommodation) could be reached by these means. The proportion of households supported which included children was very high.

The 'housing first Austria' project enabled a total of 712 people to move into new apartments of their own by September 2024, with 377 apartments provided.

The 'getting home' pilot project enabled 568 apartments to be provided and 1 147 people supported between May 2021 and May 2023. Almost 40% of those people were children, and 63% of the adult tenants in the project were women.

A well-functioning data situation forms the basis for effective, evidence-based measures against homelessness. The statistical data currently enable only certain parts of the phenomenon to be examined. According to 'Statistics Austria' (*Statistik Austria*), 20 573 people were registered as homeless in 2023. People living precariously and with no protection under (tenancy) law with friends, acquaintances or strangers are not included. Experts therefore assume that there is a large number of unrecorded cases in the area of hidden homelessness.

In order to improve the data situation concerning homelessness and precarious living, the BMSPGK has commissioned the Austrian Academy of Sciences to conduct a Machbarkeitsstudie zur Verbesserung der Datenlage (Feasibility study to improve the data situation), focusing in particular on the situation of children and young people. This represents a significant step towards achieving the objectives of the National Action Plan.

Having a home is not just a basic requirement; affordable housing is a crucial factor in the fight against poverty. As an example of measures taken at provincial level, the 'new housing allowance' (*Wohnbeihilfe neu*) in Carinthia (in force since 1 January 2025) will be cited here. This is a basic provision in the housing sector which provides long-term relief to eligible households and also supports specifically people who are at risk of poverty. The legislation is another stone laid on the path towards Carinthia becoming the most child- and family-friendly region in Europe. The new housing allowance pays particular attention to children. If there are children in the household, income limits are increased significantly, by EUR 200 per child. This means that single parents will in future be able to claim more support than before. Family incomes will thus benefit from more sustainable relief, and the extra money can be used to meet the needs of children and satisfy other requirements.

10 Special topic ‘Family and youth’

Family policy has the task of creating the best possible framework conditions for families. Austria’s family policy is a cross-sectional issue, as the competence in family matters is shared between the federal government and the provinces.

It has contributed a wide range of measures aimed at meeting the key elements set out in the National Action Plan and done much to mitigate the risk of poverty faced by families and children.

Families in Austria are supported by a wide range of financial, material and tax benefits. Many state benefits are financed wholly or partly from the FLAF, a fund earmarked for family benefits. In 2023 about EUR 8.2 billion were paid as family benefits from the FLAF.

These measures contribute, among others, to SDG 1, namely to ‘End poverty in all its forms everywhere’. In 2023, the Armutgefährdungsquote (At-risk-of-poverty rate) was reduced by means of family benefits from 29% to 19%, i.e. monetary poverty for families fell by 10 percentage points.

A significant milestone was the introduction of the automatic annual valorisation of family benefits, which began on 1 January 2023 and aims to counter the impact of inflation. In 2024, family benefits were increased by 9.7%. This provides relief to around 1.2 million families and about 2 million children. The valorisation will account to 4.6% in 2025.

Some EUR 2.4 billion, benefiting around 1.1 million families with around 1.8 million children, were foreseen under the ‘Familienbonus Plus’ programme, which was introduced in 2019 and has been increased several times, in assessment year 2022. If the Familienbonus Plus cannot be claimed due to a low or non-existent income tax, the additional child allowance, worth EUR 700 per child per year, may be claimed.

As a reliable measure for combating child poverty, in 2023, the federal government introduced a package of measures with a worth of about EUR 2.4 billion for low-income families with children. By the end of 2024, single parents and recipients of unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, social assistance or compensatory allowance will automatically receive EUR 60 per child per month with no application required.

From 2025 onwards, sole earners and working single parents with low incomes will be eligible for an increased tax credit of EUR 60 per child per month, to be paid monthly. The amount of the increase and the income threshold will be valorised annually.



In 2021, a study by the Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH found that Austria's family policy was making a key contribution to containing and reducing family and child poverty through a wide range of financial, material and tax benefits. The latest study update documents the considerable effectiveness of structural developments in the Austrian transfer system for families. This has enabled the main impact of inflation since 2021 – around 17% – to be neutralised. Where this has not been entirely successful, shortfalls have been prevented by means of temporary transfers, in particular the federal government's package of measures for families and financially disadvantaged groups. Structural and temporary transfers combined to ensure that in 2023, households with children were able to record real gains thanks to the transfer benefits.

A study by the European Commission's Joint Research Centres looked into the impact on child poverty and inequality of European expenditure on taxes and support services. The study found that Austria's mix of measures significantly reduced the at-risk-of-poverty rate and inequality. Austria is proving very successful at reducing the at-risk-of-poverty rate and significantly decreasing the at-risk-of-poverty gap with child-dependent financial benefits. Austria takes the lead compared to other Member States in terms of expenditure on under-18-year-olds as measured by per capita GDP.

Sharing family and gainful employment tasks as partners promotes women's participation in the job market, reduces families' risk of poverty and thus also helps to avoid child poverty. A series of measures, including the #papasein (Being a dad) campaign, has been introduced to encourage the sharing of tasks as partners.

A family time bonus is granted to fathers (*Familienzeitbonus*) in gainful employment who devote themselves intensively and exclusively to the family and interrupt their employment following the birth of a child. Its take-up has more than doubled since its introduction in 2017, which may also be due to the right to claim a 'father's month' since 2019. In order to further boost fathers' involvement, the daily rate for the family time bonus was doubled, retrospectively for births starting from 1 August 2023, from EUR 22.60 to EUR 47.82 and amounts to around EUR 1 600 (daily rate: EUR 52.46) with the 2024 valorisation. In addition, the family time bonus will no longer be credited towards a childcare allowance received later for births starting from 1 January 2023, and the additional income limits for the childcare allowance, the income-dependent childcare allowance and the aid for the childcare allowance have been increased. The valorisation in 2025 will be 4.6%. This will increase the family time bonus to around EUR 1 700 (daily rate: EUR 54.87) in 2025.

11 Special topic ‘Inclusion of children and youth with disabilities’

Following the submission of the combined 2nd and 3rd national report on the Umsetzung der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention (Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in 2019, on 22 and 23 August 2023 a national delegation comprising experts from seven ministries, a representative of the provinces and the Ombudsman for the Disabled took part in the second dialogue on implementation of the agreement (periodic review) with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations in Geneva.

As a result of this second periodic review with Austria, the Committee published its Abschließenden Bemerkungen (Closing remarks) on the periodic review process on 28 September 2023. The remarks make reference to progress made in recent years (e. g. adoption of the Accessibility Act in July 2023 and of the 2022–2030 National Action Plan on Disability in July 2022) and point to the urgent need to bring an end to the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, make available accessible housing and take action on inclusive education. The closing remarks contain a total of 72 specific recommendations for action to continue and improve the implementation of the Convention. These concern nearly all articles of the agreement and fall within the competence of various ministries and the provinces.

Regarding Article 7 of the Convention (Children with Disabilities), it is recommended that the segregation of children with disabilities in institutions in all areas of life, including education, should be brought to an end, financial and technical support be given to promote the active participation of organisations of children with disabilities in public discourse, and early support services and tailored support be provided for children with disabilities and their families without delay. The recommendations will be implemented using in particular the 2022–2030 National Action Plan on Disability: a commitment made on 21 February 2024 by the Austrian Government by means of an act of the Council of Ministers. The ministries are required to ensure that this is done within their areas of responsibility.

The support fund laid down in the Federal Disability Act for persons with disabilities provides for funding to support participatory projects aimed at implementing the UN Convention. EUR 50 million were allocated in 2023 and 2024 respectively in order to achieve this, with a further EUR 50 million assigned to the fund for 2024. This meant, among other things, that investments were made in the ability up to the age of 25, and at the same time the determination of the ability to work was eliminated.

The BMBWF is committed to expanding inclusive settings to create sustainable, high-quality alternatives to special needs schools. The continued development of curricula



for special education (see the chapter entitled 'Inclusive education provision and school-related activities') is a major contribution to this. Inclusive teaching will be easier in the future as a result of the extensive standardisation of course content and timetables. These will reflect the way disability is regarded in the UN Convention (according to a bio-psycho-social model) and focus on resources and competences alongside the educational and developmental potential of every individual. This will contribute to a paradigm shift from the medical to the human-rights-based model of disability, and from a concept of care to a human rights approach. Accordingly, many parts of the new curricula for special education refer explicitly to the need to impart instructional skills.

In addition, compensatory measures ('disadvantage compensation') are anchored in the curricula and curriculum supplements. Including these compensatory measures in the learning and teaching processes should ensure that pupils with disabilities can equally participate in and benefit from those processes.

Particular emphasis is put on Austrian sign language (ÖGS) in the further development of inclusive education provision. Curricula have been drawn up for ÖGS teaching which will enable it to be learned as a second modern language in the higher classes of general secondary schools – as is the case for all other foreign languages – starting from the 2026 academic year. It will also be incorporated as an autonomous obligatory exercise for deaf pupils in the curriculum supplement 'Supporting hearing / communication'. The curricula also serve as guidelines for providing ÖGS as a voluntary exercise at all statutory educational establishments.

Moreover, inclusion is firmly rooted in all curricula, including those in primary and secondary schools and the lower classes of general secondary schools. Facilitating inclusive teaching and the principles of differentiation and individualisation are understood as general didactic principles in all curricula.

The Province of Salzburg offers wirtschaftsintegrative Ausbildung (training in the economics of integration) held in companies in the private sector, as well as Ausbildungsmöglichkeiten mit Wohnen an einem Campus (campus-based residential courses) for young people with disabilities. In terms of options, young people can gain partial qualifications (including attending a vocational school) in various skilled trades and acquire a range of practical competences through support in housing and achieve greater self-determination and independence.

Measures have been developed under the Inklusives Wien 2030 (Inclusive Vienna 2030) participatory process initiated by the Vienna Social Fund to improve the Inklusion von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Behinderungen (inclusion of children and young people with disabilities). This aims to ensure equal opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to attend kindergarten and school and obtain suitable funding and

support. Outpatient, mobile and specialised services in the area of early intervention and therapy will be set up and inclusive places in kindergartens and schools created which are needs-oriented and comprehensive. The measures include the needs-oriented expansion of diagnostics and services in the area of early intervention and therapy, the comprehensive implementation of educational assistance in kindergartens and schools, the optimisation of interface management and the coordination of all clearing centres with the motto 'Helping to shape inclusive education'.

The new 'Office for Inclusion' for Vienna's Children's and Young People's Welfare has also been established. This is envisaged as an information and networking centre for all matters concerning education and care for children with disabilities. It is also responsible for quality assurance in education in connection with care for children with disabilities at the institutions concerned. Support is given in the form of printed guidelines in order to direct the focus to aiding individual development and participation. A support network has emerged alongside the office for inclusion which is open to families as well as care facilities. This has created a basis for inclusion in the primary sector.

Amendments are planned to the Vienna Kindergarten Act (*Wiener Kindergartengesetz*) and the Vienna Daycare Act (*Wiener Tagesbetreuungsgesetz*) in order to improve care for children with disabilities or chronic diseases. This will in turn be a step towards eliminating child poverty, as it is difficult for children with disabilities to obtain school and care places. This is also the main reason why mothers quit their gainful occupation – because of their role as carers – with the resultant loss of income often leading to poverty. The amendment aims to enable these children also to be looked after in children's groups and by childminders in future. This measure would promote the acceptance of diversity and at the same time boost every child's individual development and education.

In order to improve the data situation with regard to disability, the BMSGPK has commissioned Statistik Austria to draw up a long-term framework for data and statistics in the area of persons with disabilities. (Establishment of a data structure for regular disability and participation statistics) project aims to provide, for the first time, comprehensive statistical data on persons with disabilities in Austria. This will lay the foundation for the full participation of persons with disabilities. 2024 saw the publication of the first and second of three interim reports. These focused on collating the results of surveys of individuals and households and data from federal administration registers. The third, as yet uncompleted report concerns the job market and education, including data on the circumstances of children and young people. The project thus fills many gaps in the data. Political, societal and economic actors will in the future be able to align measures more accurately with the needs of persons with disabilities. The project is planned to continue in 2025 with the inclusion of comprehensive data at national and provincial level. The Federal Disability Act has been amended accordingly.

12 Monitoring

Austria set itself targets when it drew up the National Action Plan and is monitoring their achievement with meaningful indicators. Annex 1 gives an overview of all the objectives of the Austrian Action Plan and shows the development of the relevant indicators over time.

The indicators from the monitoring of the National Action Plan were evaluated together with Statistik Austria in terms of informative value, plausibility and data availability. This led to minor adjustments to the monitoring of the progress report. In some cases, for example, 3-year averages were used instead of annual values, or indicators were replaced by a more common variant. In the case of the indicator for reading ability according to income groups, which was included in the monitoring of the National Action Plan, a lack of data availability resulted in a new indicator being agreed upon, one which appears every year in a federal publication.

The BMSGPK, BKA, BMBWF and Statistik Austria were involved in updating the data. In addition, ideas were collected and ways examined, in a joint coordination exercise, for how the monitoring of the Child Guarantee in Austria could be further developed. This resulted in the adoption of two new indicators in the monitoring: one dealing with the physical activity of children and young people, and the other showing information on the accessibility of primary education establishments at regional level. It should be pointed out there are no total numbers of children in primary schools and crèches published by Statistik Austria for 2021 and 2022. The attendance rates are based on calculations by the BKA, which might contain double counting.

The presentation of the monitoring as a time sequence enabling the development of the indicators over the implementation period of the National Action Plan to be seen at a glance is new.

The revised monitoring is set out in [Annex 2](#).

Annex 1 – Target tables

KEY

- a the 20% of respondents with the lowest scores from questions about family affluence
- b medical outpatient care units
- * 3-year averages are in the column for the middle year in each case
- [] values in square brackets represent Child Guarantee National Action Plan targets

Poverty and social exclusion targets

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To halve the risk of poverty or social exclusion among children and young people	Proportion of children and young people (0–17) at risk of poverty or social exclusion					21.6%	22.7%		[17.5%]					[11%]	Statistik Austria, EU-SILC
2 To halve severe material and social deprivation among children and young people	Proportion of children and young people (0–17) with severe material and social deprivation					2.0%	5.3%		[1.5%]					[1%]	Statistik Austria, EU-SILC

Early childhood education and care targets

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To meet the Barcelona target	Attendance rate of under-3s (including with childminders)					32.1%	35.0%							[40%]	Statistik Austria, statistics on primary education and crèches
2 To reinforce early language support	Reduction of the proportion of children in a group displaying a specific need for language support at the end of primary education		-30%	-22%	-20%	-22%	-23%							[-30%]	Effectiveness monitoring (Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act) Agreement on primary teaching

Aims of inclusive education provision and school-related activities

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To reduce early dropout rates from schools and training courses	Ranking among the Member States for the proportion of 18–24-year-olds not completing sixth form (<i>Sekundarstufe II</i>) who are not in a training programme			13 th (8.1%)	14 th (8.0%)	17 th (8.4%)	16 th (8.6%)							[EU-Top-Ten]	Eurostat
2 Expansion of all-day schools	Proportion of pupils in statutory general education receiving day care					33%				[38.5%]				[40%]	Definitive staffing plans for statutory general educational establishments, child day care centre statistics, Education Investment Act
3 To boost basic skills	Proportion of 15-year-old pupils not exceeding competence level 1 in the basic skill 'Reading'	24%				25%								[20%]	
	Proportion of 15-year-old pupils not exceeding competence level 1 in the basic skill 'Mathematics'	21%				25%								[20%]	PISA (OECD)
	Proportion of 15-year-old pupils not exceeding competence level 1 in the basic skill 'Science'	22%				23%								[20%]	

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
4 To increase inclusion	Proportion of pupils with special education support needs who are taught in an integrated way in general statutory education			64%	64%	64%	62%							[80%]	Statistik Austria

Aims of healthy school meals

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To implement standardised, high-quality standards for school meals throughout the country	Number of provinces where the school meals checklist is obligatory in the tendering criteria for school canteens				4	4	4							[9]	BMBWF/ education directorates
2 To ensure access	Proportion of pupils receiving at least one free, healthy meal each school day				not available			[survey / concept develop- ment]						[overall imple- mentation]	BMBWF/ education directorates

Health care targets

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To improve health	Proportion of children and young people (0–17) in very good health who are affected by poverty or social exclusion				77%			[80%]						[82%]	Statistik Austria; EU statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) child module
1a To improve health	Proportion of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families ^a in excellent health					26.1%				[29%]				[32%]	Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
2 To reduce mental health complaints	Proportion of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families ^a who rarely or never have one of four defined mental health complaints (irritation / bad mood, nervousness, difficulty falling asleep, dejection)					65.3%				[70%]				[75%]	Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
3 To improve paediatric care	Care regions where the number of outpatient paediatric care units falls short of the minimum target of 4.2 medical outpatient care units ^b per 100 000 members of the resident population			34.4%	40.6%	37.5%	[25%]			[15%]				[10%]	Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
4 To expand psychiatric outpatient care for children and young people	Care regions where the number of outpatient children's and young people's psychiatric care units falls short of the minimum target of 0.6 medical outpatient care units ^b per 100 000 members of the resident population			40.6%	37.5%	34.4%	[30%]			[20%]				[10%]	Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
5 To roll out 'Frühe Hilfen' nationwide	Number of districts with 'Frühe Hilfen' networks					71	all							[all]	BMSGPK
6 To improve the take-up of the mother-child passport	Proportion of pregnant women consulting a midwife under the mother-child passport scheme			38.7%	40.5%	38.0%	39.2%							[50%]	BMSGPK, mother-child passport

Healthy eating targets

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To reduce excess weight and obesity	Proportion of overweight or obese 18-year-old males				32.6%	33.0%			[29.4%]					[26.5%]	Statistik Austria, medical examinations
	Proportion of overweight or obese children and young people (11–17) from low-income families ^a					29.2%				[26.5%]				[23.5%]	Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	Proportion of overweight or obese 8-year-old children			24.3%			27%			[22%]			[20%]		Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI)
	Proportion of overweight or obese children (0–5)									[define aims]				[tbd]	in future: BMSGPK, electronic parent-child-passport
2 To promote healthy eating	Proportion of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families who eat fruit and vegetables at least once a day					33%				[31.5%]				[38%]	Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)

Adequate housing targets

Target	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Source
1 To eliminate homelessness among children and young people	Number of children and young people (0–17) affected by homelessness							Feasibility study						[Survey]	Data have yet to be gathered
2 To reduce housing cost overburden for children and young people	Number of children and young people (0–17) affected housing cost overburden					92								[47]	
3 To reduce poor housing quality / severe housing deprivation among children and young people	Number of children and young people (0–17) living in overcrowded housing					232								[101]	
	Number of children and young people (0–17) living in housing which is damp or mould-infested					192								[90]	Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
	Number of children and young people (0–17) living in households with dark rooms					101								[39]	
	Proportion of children and young people (0–17) affected by severe housing deprivation					5.2%								[2.2%]	

Annex 2 – Monitoring tables

KEY

- a the 20% of respondents with the lowest scores from questions about family prosperity
- b medical outpatient care units
- c corresponds to the Austrian recommendation for exercise for children and young people
- * 3-year averages are in the column for the middle year in each case (Source: Wissensband 17
Österreichische Bewegungsempfehlungen [fgoe.org])

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people affected by poverty or social exclusion

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) – 1 of 3 criteria met									353	21.6%	376	22.7%	Statistik Austria, EU-SILC
Number of children and young people (0–17) at risk of poverty									316	19.2%	325	19.6%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) with severe material and social deprivation									36	2.2%	88	5.3%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in households with no or low employment intensity									77	4.7%	88	5.3%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) in households with repeated payment problems							69	4.3%	84	5.2%			Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
Number of children and young people in manifest poverty (at least 2 AROPE criteria met)							89	5.5%	88	5.4%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in single-earner households	total						180	11.2%	172	10.5%			
	of which AROPE						120	66.7%	110	64.1%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) in households with long-term unemployment	total						123	7.6%	121	7.4%			
	of which AROPE						78	63.3%	80	66.1%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living mainly from social assistance	total						147	9.1%	145	8.9%			
	of which AROPE						110	74.7%	108	74.2%			
At-risk-of-poverty gap (0–17), based on national at-risk-of-poverty threshold							/	24.5%	/	25.9%	/	19.8%	Statistik Austria; EU statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) child module

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people with disabilities

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–15) with disabilities	total						49	3.5%					Statistik Austria; EU statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) child module
	of which AROPE						12	24.2%					

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people with a migrant background

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) by migrant background (both parents born abroad, country of origin is the mother's country of birth)	no migrant background						1 097	71.0%	1 113	70.7%	1 105	70.1%	Statistik Austria, microcensus-workforce survey
	Migrant background						449	29.0%	461	29.3%	472	29.9%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) by migrant background (both parents born abroad, country of origin is the mother's country of birth)	no migrant background						1 228	76.3%	1 246	76.2%			Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
	of which AROPE						179	14.6%	182	14.6%			
	EU-27/EFTA						114	7.1%	122	7.4%			
	of which AROPE						39	34.2%	38	31.4%			
	Ex Yugoslavia						70	4.3%	67	4.1%			
	of which AROPE						18	25.7%	17	25.8%			
	Türkiye						44	2.7%	36	2.2%			
	of which AROPE						16	36.4%	13	37.6%			
	other third countries						154	9.6%	165	10.1%			
of which AROPE						105	68.2%	111	68.2%				
Number of asylum applications by unaccompanied minors (0–17)					5.6	/	13.3	/	4.9	/			BMI, asylum statistics

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people with health problems

Indicator		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
		1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) in very good health	total							1.319	81.8%					Statistik Austria; EU statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) child module
	AROPE							286	77.2%					
Number of children and young people (11–17) in excellent health	total	/	34.3%							/	35.8%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	male	/	40.5%							/	42.7%			
	female	/	29.5%							/	29.6%			
Proportion of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families from low-income families ^a in excellent health	total	/	31.6%							/	26.1%			
	male	/	37.9%							/	31.0%			
	female	/	27.2%							/	21.7%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) who rarely or never have one of four defined mental health complaints (irritation / bad mood, nervousness, difficulty falling asleep, dejection)	total	/	74.0%							/	65.7%			
	male	/	80.8%							/	76.0%			
	female	/	68.4%							/	56.4%			
Proportion of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families ^a who rarely or never have one of four defined mental health complaints (irritation / bad mood, nervousness, difficulty falling asleep, dejection)	total	/	74.6%							/	65.3%			
	male	/	82.0%							/	74.3%			
	female	/	68.7%							/	57.4%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) who have done at least 60 minutes of physical activity in the last 7 days ^c	total	/	17.5%							/	18.8%			
	male	/	23.5%							/	25.0%			
	female	/	12.8%							/	13.2%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families who have done at least 60 minutes of physical activity in the last 7 days ^c	total	/	16.7%							/	16.4%			
	male	/	22.7%							/	21.4%			
	female	/	11.9%							/	11.9%			

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people in alternative kinds of care

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Full education in socio-educational institutions	total						8.0	0.5%	8.0	0.5%	8.1	0.5%	Statistik Austria, statistics from Children's and Young People's Assistance (<i>Kinder- und Jugendhilfe</i>)
	male						4.4	0.6%	4.4	0.5%	4.4	0.5%	
	female							3.6	0.5%	3.6	0.5%	3.7	
Full education with foster carers / families	total						5.0	0.3%	5.1	0.3%	5.1	0.3%	
	male						2.6	0.3%	2.6	0.3%	2.6	0.3%	
	female						2.5	0.3%	2.5	0.3%	2.5	0.3%	

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people in challenging family situations

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children accommodated in women's shelters					1,5	0,1%	1,6	0,1%	1,595	0,1%			Statistics from Austrian women's refugees
Children and young people (0–17) in single-parent households	total						110	7,0%	110	6,9%			Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
	of which AROPE						59	53,6%	58	52,9%			
Children and young people (0–17) with at least one parent with a disability	total						92	5,8%	90	5,5%			
	of which AROPE						43	46,7%	36	40,2%			
Children and young people (0–17) by number of children (0–17) in the household	1 child						358	22,7%	371	23,2%			
	of which AROPE						51	14,2%	47	12,7%			
	2 children						659	41,8%	662	41,3%			
	of which AROPE						96	14,6%	104	15,7%			
3+ children							450	28,5%	457	28,6%			
	of which AROPE						153	34,0%	149	32,5%			

TARGET GROUPS – children and young people who are homeless or have housing problems

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Registered homelessness among children and young people (0–17)	total						1.9	0.1%	2.1	0.1%	2.1	0.1%	Statistik Austria, registered homelessness
	male						1.0	0.1%	1.1	0.1%	1.1	0.1%	
	female							1.0	0.1%	1.0	0.1%	1.1	

KEY TOPICS – Early childhood education and care

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children in early childhood education and care establishments or with registered childminders by age	0–2 years						79.2	31.2%	82.0	32.1%	86.9	35.0%	Statistik Austria, statistics on primary education and day nurseries; Calculations by BKA
	3–5 years						253.2	95.0%	255.5	95.0%	251.3	94.2%	
Number of 0–2-year-olds in early childhood education and care facilities or with registered childminders by federal province	Burgenland						2.6	37.6%	2.8	39.5%	2.8	41.2%	
	Carinthia						4.0	29.3%	4.6	33.2%	5.0	36.7%	
	Lower Austria						13.9	30.3%	14.8	31.9%	16.5	36.4%	
	Upper Austria						9.9	22.0%	10.6	23.4%	10.9	24.5%	
	Salzburg						4.7	27.7%	5.0	29.4%	5.1	31.4%	
	Styria						7.6	22.9%	8.0	24.0%	8.2	25%	
	Tyrol						6.6	29.3%	7.0	31.0%	7.5	33.8%	
Vorarlberg						4.1	31.5%	4.5	35.2%	4.6	36.9%		
Vienna						25.9	45.5%	24.7	43.1%	26.7	47.4%		

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source									
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%										
Number of 0–2-year-olds in early childhood care facilities which conform to the ‘Family and Occupation’ compatibility indicator (VIF) by federal province	Burgenland						1.1	44.3%	1.5	55.0%	1.4	50.5%	Statistik Austria, statistics on primary education and crèches									
	Carinthia						2.8	72.8%	3.0	72.5%	3.2	72.1%										
	Lower Austria						5.8	44.4%	5.8	41.6%	9.9	62.3%										
	Upper Austria						2.1	24.1%	2.3	24.1%	2.8	28.6%										
	Salzburg						2.0	47.3%	1.9	42.8%	2.0	42.7%										
	Styria						2.7	43.5%	2.7	40.7%	2.6	38.1%										
	Tyrol						3.1	49.2%	3.5	52.0%	3.7	51.7%										
	Vorarlberg						2.6	63.9%	2.8	63.5%	3.0	65.3%										
	Vienna						22.1	88.1%	21.4	89.4%	23.2	89.1%										
Average monthly expenditure for childcare for 1 child in EUR					141		140		190				Statistik Austria, EU-SILC									
Average monthly expenditure for childcare for 1 child affected by poverty or social exclusion in EUR					120		115		146													
Government expenditure on early childhood education and care (ISCED 2011 level 0) in % of GDP							/		0,7%				Statistik Austria, statistics on education costs									
Reduction in the share of children in a cohort who have specific language support needs at the end of their attendance of early childhood educational and formal childcare institutions												/	-30%	/	-22%	/	-20%	/	-22%	/	-23%	Effectiveness monitoring (Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act) Agreement on primary teaching

KEY TOPICS – education provision, school-related activities

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source	
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%		
15-year-old pupils not exceeding competence level 1 in a basic skill	Reading	/	24%						/	25%			OECD (PISA)	
	Mathematics	/	21%						/	25%				
	Science	/	22%						/	23%				
Average reading performance (in points) of pupils (15/16 years old) by social status	Low social status	440					423							
	Medium social status	487					482							
	High social status	540					538							
Young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs): 16–29-year-olds who were in neither employment nor in training for at least 6 months	total				151	10.8%	166	12.5%	142	10.4%	167	12.0%		Statistik Austria, EU-SILC
	male				62	8.8%	74	11.0%	68	9.7%	78	10.8%		
	female				88	12.9%	92	14.1%	74	11.1%	89	13.3%		
	AROPE				64	26.0%	70	29.4%	53	20.6%	65	24.6%		
Pupils at general compulsory schools who use afterschool care		/	32.8%	/	33.1%	/	33.4%	/	34.7%	/	36.2%	Definitive staffing plans for statutory general schools, child day care centre statistics, Education Investment Act		

KEY TOPICS – healthy school meals

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of federal provinces where the school meals checklist is obligatory in the tendering criteria for school cafeterias							4	BL	4	BL			BMBWF
Number of schools that offer a healthy meal on a daily basis													

KEY TOPICS – Health care I

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) who did not receive treatment within 12 months although they were in need	total		/	10.0%									Statistik Austria, health survey
	monthly Net household income in equivalised form < 60% of the median		/	24.0%									
Share of care regions where the number of outpatient paediatric care units falls short of the minimum target of 4.2 medical outpatient care units ^b per 100 000 members of the resident population	incl. private dentists (corresponds to requirement of the Austrian Structural Plan for Health)				/	34.4%	/	40.6%	/	37.5%			Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
	no private dentists				/	40.6%	/	40.6%	/	40.6%			
Share of care regions where the number of outpatient children's and young people's psychiatric care units falls short of the minimum target of 0.6 medical outpatient care units ^b per 100 000 members of the resident population	incl. private dentists (corresponds to requirement of the Austrian Structural Plan for Health)				/	40.6%	/	37.5%	/	34.4%			Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
	no private dentists				/	40.6%	/	37.5%	/	34.4%			
Number of districts with 'Frühe Hilfen' assistance networks									71		all 94		BMSGPK
Number of mothers who use midwife counselling services under the mother-child health passport examinations (electronic parent-child health passport from 2026)				32.0	38.7%	34.4	40.5%	31.0	38.0%	30.1	39.2%		BMSGPK, mother-child passport

KEY TOPICS – Health care II

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Proportion of overweight or obese 18-year-old males				/	31.3%	/	32.6%	/	33.0%				Statistik Austria, medical examinations
Proportion of overweight or obese children and young people (11–17)	total	/	16.2%						/	21.0%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	male	/	20.2%						/	25.6%			
	female	/	13.4%						/	16.8%			
Proportion of overweight or obese children and young people (11–17) from low-income families^a	total	/	20.6%						/	29.2%			Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI)
	male	/	25.0%						/	35.3%			
	female	/	17.4%						/	23.6%			
Proportion of overweight or obese 8-year-old children	total				/	24.3%					/	27%	in future: BMSGPK, electronic parent-child-passport
	male				/	25.0%					/	30%	
	female				/	23.6%					/	24%	
Proportion of overweight or obese children (0–5)													
Number of children and young people (11–17) who consider themselves too fat	total	/	34.4%						/	36.0%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	male	/	29.0%						/	30.4%			
	female	/	38.6%						/	41.0%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) from low-income families^a who consider themselves too fat	total	/	38.9%						/	43.4%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	male	/	34.3%						/	38.4%			
	female	/	42.8%						/	47.9%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) who eat fruit and vegetables at least once a day	total	/	23.5%						/	30.3%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	from low-income families ^a	/	20.3%						/	26.0%			
Number of children and young people (11–17) who do not usually have breakfast on school days	total	/	34.1%						/	40.7%			Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)
	from low-income families ^a	/	39.4%						/	46.7%			

KEY TOPICS – Adequate housing

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) affected by severe housing deprivation, i.e. overcrowding + at least 1 of 3 housing deprivation criteria	total						83	5.2%	102	6.2%			Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
	AROPE						40	11.1%	55	14.9%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in households affected by excessive housing costs	total						96	6.0%	92	5.6%			
	AROPE						89	25.2%	86	23.5%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in overcrowded housing	total						227	14.1%	232	14.2%			
	AROPE						128	36.1%	138	37.7%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in housing with damp or mould-infested households	total						173	10.8%	192	11.7%			
	AROPE						46	12.9%	64	17.4%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in households with dark rooms	total						85	5.3%	101	6.2%			
	AROPE						36	10.2%	44	12.1%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in owner-occupied houses or flats	total						886	55.0%	886	54.2%			
	AROPE						78	21.8%	79	21.6%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in municipal housing	total						141	8.7%	145	8.9%			
	AROPE						75	21.2%	76	20.7%			
Number of children and young people (0–17) living in cooperative housing	total						233	14.5%	250	15.3%			
	AROPE						62	17.3%	70	19.2%			

REFERENCE VALUES

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17)					1 613	18.3%	1 640	18.5%	1 653	18.4%			Statistik Austria, EU-SILC
Number of children and young people (0–15)					1 399	15.9%	1 409	15.9%	1 415	15.8%			
Number of children and young people (0–17)					1 610	18.3%	1 635	18.4%					Statistik Austria, EU-SILC (3-year average)*
Number of children and young people (0–17) at the beginning of the year					1 544	17.3%	1 552	17.3%	1 578	17.3%			Statistik Austria, population statistics
Number of children and young people (0–17) at the beginning of the year by age	0–2 years						255	16.5%	255	16.4%	255	16.1%	
	3–5 years						267	17.3%	267	17.2%	268	17.0%	
	6–8 years						257	16.6%	259	16.7%	270	17.1%	
	9–11 years						254	16.4%	257	16.5%	261	16.5%	
	12–14 years						254	16.5%	254	16.3%	261	16.6%	
15–17 years						258	16.7%	260	16.8%	263	16.7%		
Number of children and young people (0–17) at the beginning of the year by gender	male						794	51.4%	798	51.4%	812	51.4%	
	female						750	48.6%	754	48.6%	767	48.6%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) at the beginning of the year by province	Burgenland						47	3.1%	47	3.1%	48	3.1%	
	Carinthia						91	5.9%	91	5.9%	91	5.8%	
	Lower Austria						296	19.1%	297	19.1%	302	19.1%	
	Upper Austria						271	17.6%	273	17.6%	277	17.5%	
	Salzburg						99	6.4%	99	6.4%	100	6.3%	
	Styria						201	13.0%	202	13.0%	205	13.0%	
	Tyrol						132	8.6%	133	8.6%	134	8.5%	
	Vorarlberg						76	5.0%	77	5.0%	78	4.9%	
Vienna						330	21.4%	332	21.4%	343	21.7%		

Indicator	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		Source
	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	
Number of children and young people (0–17) by citizenship	Austria						1 250	81.0%	1 249	80.5%	1 243	78.7%	Statistik Austria, population statistics
	EU-27/EFTA						142	9.2%	148	9.5%	154	9.8%	
	Other third countries						152	9.8%	155	10.0%	182	11.5%	
Total population at the start of the year					8 933	/	8 979	/	9 105	/			
Number of births				83	/	85	/	82	/	77	/		Statistik Austria, natural population movement statistics
Gross domestic product in EUR billion			405.2	447.2	478.2								Statistik Austria, national accounting

